

can confreres at luncheon in the room of the association. The business of the meeting, which had lasted four days, was brought to a close by the election of the following office-bearers:

President, A. T. Paterson (Phoenix), Montreal; vice-president, Thos. R. Wood (Ætna), Toronto, re-elected; second-vice., Thos. Davidson (North British), Montreal; secretary, Robert McLean, Toronto, re-elected; assistant-secretary, Alf. W. Hadrill, Montreal, re-elected.

A hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was given to Mr. Paterson for the able and impartial manner in which he had presided over the gathering. After Mr. Paterson had responded in appropriate words' the meeting, one of the most interesting of the series, adjourned.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DRUGGISTS.

"To make one pound of honey," says *Science Siftings*, "the busy bees must visit from 90,000 to 2,000,000 flowers." But as things are going now it will be hard for the busy retail druggists to make a decent living out of 90,000 or 2,000,000 prescriptions, when Timothy Eaton is dubbed a druggist and treated as one by a certain wholesale house, and when Robert Simpson sells sponges by the thousand at cut rates.

What shall we do if this war breaks the business up, Oh, what shall the poor druggist do. The sensible retail druggist will at any rate keep up, possibly raise, his prices on prescriptions (which Eaton & Simpson cannot make up) and cease divying up with his doctor. It is a foregone conclusion now that proprietary articles will be sold at cut prices for many a day.

The variations in the price of quinine for the last sixty or seventy years are given by the *National Druggist*. In the year 1823 quinine was worth from \$16 to \$20 per ounce, coming down to \$8 in the next year, and to \$3 in 1828 or 1829. For thirty years thereafter the price ranged variously between \$3.60 and \$1.40, but in 1861 a period of higher prices began, culminating with \$4.50 per ounce in 1877. Then gradually it went down, marking \$1.80 to \$2.50 in the year 1882, ninety cents to twice ninety in 1884, seventy five to a dollar in 1885, then down yearly, till, in 1891, the unprecedentedly low figure of 20 to 35 cents per ounce is reached.

There are four and a half millions of cinchona plants in permanent cultivation in Bengal, India. The quantity of bark in store at the beginning of this year was 426,000 lbs., and the stock is now 460,000 lbs.

A German imperial decree forbids the sale of the machines invented to make artificial coffee beans, which only cost \$30 per 1,000 pounds.

Grease may be taken out of white marble by applying a little pile of whiting or fuller's earth saturated with benzine, and allowing it to stand some time.

Window glass long exposed to sun and rain acquires a dulness which washing or scrubbing will not remove. This is due to a gradual surface decomposition of the glass and the solution of the sodium or potassium salts it contains by the carbonic acid of the atmosphere. To brighten such glass, wash with dilute hydrochloric acid, and afterwards rub with moistened chalk or whiting.

The day for complicated prescriptions, says the *National Druggist*, seems to be over. Old physicians well remember the time when prescription-writing was taught as quite an art.

Nowadays simplicity seems to be especially cultivated; at least this is true of the practice of the best physicians of the day, and the prescriber is content, it may be, with one "adjuvant" or "corrigent," and almost any convenient "vehicle." The long, often heterogeneous and absurd recipes of a former age are no more heard of. The ingredients of the prescription are few in number, and "direct medication" is attempted. . . The tabax-triturate, with its single drug and definite dose, is usurping the place of the classic preparations.

A RECEIPT for making a paper absolutely impermeable by water and of great suppleness is given as follows in the *Chronicle Industrielle*: Thirteen pounds of gelatine are dissolved in a bath of 13 pounds of glycerine with 1½ gallons of water, and while the mixture is constantly kept warm by means of a wet bath, the paper is immersed in it. After being taken out the paper is soaked in another compound of about 3 pounds of bichromate of potash dissolved in 1½ gallons of water, after which it is exposed to light.

The fourth annual meeting of the National Paint, Oil, and Varnish Association of the United States, was held at the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, last week. Mr. O. L. Whitelaw, of St. Louis, the president, was in the chair. About 100 delegates and visitors, representing the trade east of the Rocky Mountains, were present. The chief subject of discussion during Tuesday was the Torrey Bankruptcy bill. The meeting was addressed by the author of the bill, and a committee was appointed to draft resolutions to be presented to Congress urging its immediate passage. Much of the afternoon was spent in the debating of ways and means for the establishment by Government of a Department of Trade and Commerce. The other matters dealt with were of interest only to the paint, oil, and varnish trade. The convention closed on Thursday with a banquet. Some 16 of the delegates were the guests of president O. L. Whitelaw at a St. Louis club dinner.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Mr. George E. Casey, M.P., has been appointed agent in London of the Equitable Life Assurance Co., of New York.

It is stated by the *Guelph Herald* that Mr. A. McBean, who latterly had been secretary of the Bain Bros. Mfg. Co., Ltd., of Woodstock and Brantford, has ceased his connection with the company and returns to live in Guelph. He has received the appointment of agent for the Canada Life Insurance Company in Guelph, Berlin and Waterloo.

An invention for the extinguishment of fires by the effect of the fire itself, and by the operation of electricity, has been patented by Casa M. Radford, of Concord, N.H. A chemical generator as large as may be needed is first provided and pipes run from this into each room in the building. At the top is a jar in which acid is stored, and inside of which is a cartridge. An open circuit battery is used. The thermostat in each room is set at whatever figure desired, perhaps at 80°. In case of fire the mercury runs up to this figure, and the circuit is closed. This explodes the cartridge in the jar, a valve drops down, and the chemicals are sent to the room through a system of sprinklers. He supplements this by a system of dry pipes through which water can be poured upon any floor by an operator outside the building.

On Thursday of last week, the Montreal Fire

Brigade invited the Association of Canadian Underwriters, then in session in that good city, to witness a parade on the Champ de Mars, of which the members availed themselves. The turnout was very creditable. There were in line 9 steamers, 3 chemical engines, 4 extension ladders, 10 single and 4 Bengor ladders, 13 single reels, and two double reels; each of the former carrying 500 feet of hose, and each of the latter 1,000 feet (there are also six spare reels), 3 salvage wagons, 1 Siamese wagon and one coal cart. The brigade consists, we are informed, of 153 men, 1 supply superintendent, 1 chief and 3 sub-chiefs—all of them apparently able-bodied, active men. The horses are magnificent animals. The parade was creditable to the city and to the brigade, and elicited many expressions of praise from the underwriters.

One who was present at the turnout of the Montreal fire brigade last Thursday (19th), writes to us as under. He is a Toronto man, too: "I consider that Mr. J. A. Paterson, president of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, voiced the unanimous feeling of the members of the association who saw the parade, when he expressed his admiration of the men, horses and the equipments."

On this night week serious damage was done by fire to the St. John Bolt and Nut Works, situated on the Intercolonial Railway. The fire began in the engine room late at night, destroying the wooden structure where the heavy forging is done, and nearly gutted the brick building where stock is kept. The loss is estimated at \$10,000 or \$12,000; insurance about \$30,000, divided among the Commercial Union, Royal, Union Society, Phoenix of London and other offices. The machinery in the works was valued at between \$18,000 and \$20,000; the stock at \$15,000 or \$20,000, and the buildings at about \$20,000. The *Telegraph* states that \$15,000 of the \$30,000 insurance was in favor of Mr. Rankine, who holds a mortgage on the whole concern. He is also one of the directors. The works are owned by a stock company, of which Mr. James E. White is president; Mr. John Lawrence, manager; and Mr. R. R. Rankine, sec.-treasurer.

In a court at Leeds, England, the judge decided that a woman having in charge a young girl was entitled to recover the insurance on her life. It was held that the woman would probably have been liable for expenses for the burial of the girl, and that was considered sufficient to constitute an insurable interest in her life.

Beamsville, Ont., suffered heavily from fire a few days ago, and the inhabitants are now awake to the need of water for fire protection. It has been proposed to put water tanks along the main streets, to be kept filled from springs on the mountain. Besides these, it is suggested, the town needs a steam fire engine.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 26th Nov., 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Nov. 20.....	\$2,201,374	\$335,974
" 21.....	2,303,044	327,500
" 23.....	1,577,748	187,980
" 24.....	2,529,543	267,316
" 25.....	1,847,136	247,154
" 26.....	1,641,261	230,980
Total	\$12,100,106	\$1,596,904
Cor. week 1890	\$9,707,422	\$1,516,793
Cor. week 1889	8,022,619	1,015,572